

who experienced excruciating pain in the serotum and fainted while shaving. Examination in the hospital disclosed an enlarged, tense serotum. There was no history or evidence of venereal disease, but eight years previously the patient had been treated for an acute varicocele. Operation two days after admission revealed a hematocele, which was evacuated and drained. The wound healed by primary intention and the patient was discharged.

**Personal Experience in the Use of Lane Plates.**—SWEET (*Jour. Orthop. Surg.*, 1919, i, 673) reports 1560 fractures of long bones, with 172 open operations. Of these 41 were compound and 129 were cases of simple fractures, delayed or non-union, or were cases of vicious union. Lane plates were applied in 28 instances (femur 18, tibia and fibula 7, radius and ulna 3). Primary union occurred in all except 2 cases, and these were compound fractures. In 4 cases sinuses developed at the end of six to ten weeks, the process being afebrile. In 1 case in which the plates and screws were handled by the operator a low-grade osteomyelitis resulted. Sweet thinks operation is safer in the femur than in the other long bones, and considers operation highly satisfactory.

## PEDIATRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

THOMPSON S. WESTCOTT, M.D., AND ALVIN E. SIEGEL, M.D.,  
OF PHILADELPHIA.

**The Antiscorbutic Value of the Banana.**—LEWIS (*Jour. Biol. Chemistry*, November, 1919) says that as a result of experiments he found that guinea-pigs fed an exclusive diet of banana were unable to maintain their bodily weight and died in from twenty to thirty days. He found in autopsy a condition of marked inanition, but no lesion characteristic of scurvy. Bananas in amounts greater than 25 grams a day as a supplement to a diet of rolled oats prevented the onset of scurvy. Such a diet did not permit normal growth in young animals. Less than 25 grams of bananas a day as a supplement to the oat diet did not protect against scurvy. Scurvy can be readily produced experimentally on a diet of autoclaved rolled oats supplemented by bran, milk casein and inorganic salts. When such a diet is supplemented by banana from 10 to 15 grams will serve to protect against scurvy, but result in rapid growth of young guinea-pigs. These experiments suggested that a lower content of the antiscorbutic principle may be sufficient to protect against scurvy, if the diet is adequate in its content of the other essential dietary constituents.

**The Heat Coagulation of Milk.**—SOMMER and HART (*Jour. Biol. Chemistry*, November, 1919) say that the chief factor in the heat coagulation of milk is the composition of the milk salts. Apparently casein

requires a definite optimum calcium content for its maximum stability. The calcium content of casein is largely controlled by the magnesium citrates and phosphates present. In fresh milk there is no relation between titratable acidity and heat coagulation. Acid fermentation in milk lowers the coagulability point by changing the reaction and by lowering the citric acid content. The titratable acidity of fresh milk samples varies so widely that it is impossible to determine the extent of acid fermentation by titration; so that it is impossible to use the acidity of milk as a criterion of coagulability. Difference in concentration accounts partly for the difference in coagulation of fresh milk samples. Hydrogen ion concentration is not the determining factor in fresh milk coagulation. It is nevertheless a factor in fresh milks and in commercial milk it may become an important factor.

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**The von Pirquet Test.**—FRIEDMAN (*Colorado Medicine*, October, 1919) publishes the results of observations on 464 unselected patients. Their ages ranged from a few months to eighteen years. Of this number 219 were males and 245 were females. Of these 39.8 per cent. reacted positively, the number of positives among the males being 2 per cent. in excess to that found in the females. Under one year almost 12 per cent. reacted positively; from ten to fourteen years, 55 per cent.; and from fourteen to eighteen years, only 51 per cent. The highest number of positive reactions was noted during the eleventh to thirteenth year period, with 66.7 per cent.; and the lowest at the fifth to the sixth year period, with only 13 per cent. positive. Of 27 having a tuberculous parent 23.2 per cent. reacted. Of 181 children exposed to a parent with an active lesion 58 per cent. reacted positively, and of 78 cases exposed to a parent with a healed lesion, 38.5 per cent. reacted positively. Of those children whose father had a healed lesion, 48.4 per cent. reacted positively. Of 210 children examined from eighty-five families all members of the same family reacted positively in 55 instances. One hundred and eleven tests were performed upon 55 children at intervals of from several months to two and a half years. In 43 the outcome was the same with both tests. In 11 a negative result became in a subsequent test positive, and only once did a positive test become negative. In 6 children the first positive test was more pronounced, in 7 the second was more pronounced. In this series only 5 were found in whom clinical tuberculosis was demonstrable; 4 showed apical involvement and 1 has tuberculosis of the spine. None of these was under fourteen years of age; 4 were of tuberculous parentage; 3 reacted positively, but only 1 of these showed a strong reaction.

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**The Nervous Child and His Management.**—McCREADY (*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, October 11, 1919) points out some of the factors giving rise to the development of nervous disorders of later life. As regards treatment he suggests that this must begin with the modification of the immediate environment. The difficulty of improving in his own home is not because the home is essentially unfit but because it is difficult to eliminate the causes of the nervous disorder. Because of lack of special training the parents and relatives should be out of contact with the little patient. If the child is kept at home the domestic arrangements must be modified and changed as conditions require, sources of friction

must be removed, impatience, irritability and undue sympathy must be eliminated. Rest is the first essential. Next comes regulation of diet. Excessive carbohydrate consumption in the form of candy and pastry are to be eliminated. Fresh air, bathing, regulated exercise all have an important place in the hygienic management of the nervous child.

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## OBSTETRICS

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UNDER THE CHARGE OF

EDWARD P. DAVIS, A.M., M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS IN THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, PHILADELPHIA.

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**Transmission of Smallpox to the Fetus.**—CAPPELANI (*Pedriatia*, Naples, April, 1919) observed four cases in which the newborn infants developed smallpox immediately after birth. At first these children seemed normal, but in five or six days smallpox developed. In one the mother was healthy but the infant had fever twenty-four hours after birth and developed smallpox the next day. The mother was revaccinated at once giving a typical response, but escaping smallpox, although the disease was prevalent at the time.

**Cesarean Section for Hemorrhage from Varicose Veins of the Vagina.**—BRUNNER (*Correspondenzblatt f. Schweiz Aerzte.*, March 15, 1919) has collected cases to show that hemorrhage from varices in the vagina during pregnancy is often fatal. In one collection of 15 cases there were 13 deaths, and during labor in a series of 16 cases there were 7 deaths. Another observer in 30 cases found 11 deaths and another in 3 cases had 2 deaths. In 1 case the obstetrician was able to arrest the bleeding by tamponing, but the moment the tampon was removed the blood spurted anew from various points. He delivered the patient by abdominal Cesarean section and the varices by the third day had collapsed. Brunner reports a case in which the child was very large, weighing 4900 grams. Profuse and persistent bleeding came on during labor and the labia were so edematous that ligatures would not hold and the hemorrhage was controlled by clamps. After abdominal section the woman recovered and her recovery was complicated by sepsis for which she received antistreptococcus serum.

**Drugs Contra-indicated During Pregnancy.**—MUNOS (*Repertorio de Medicina y Cirugia*, Bogota, February, 1919) would not administer potassium iodid to pregnant women. He asserts that he has seen it induce abortion, killing the fetus in later pregnancy and even disturbed nursing infants when the drug had been applied externally to the breasts. Iodin acts comparatively like a stimulant with menstruation. Russian physicians have been in the habit of using iodine and potassium iodid extensively in typhus fever. In amenorrhea in robust